

An announcement about her replacement could be made as early as this week.

During McClung's time at Belle Grove, she demonstrated that running the house was as much about helping it become part of the community as "preserving limestone walls and beautiful grounds," Adamson said. He praised her for doing the latter as well.

TRIPLED HOLDINGS

Under McClung, Belle Grove has tripled its property holdings with the acquisition of 183 adjacent acres and of Bowman's Fort near Strasburg, Adamson said.

Both of these historic sites are within the boundaries of the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, he said.

McClung championed the need for the park, was part of the team that wrote the original legislation to establish it, and helped create a general management plan to act as a road map for its future.

Adamson says the "active partnerships" McClung built with a number of organizations in the community are a big part of what made the park possible.

"I think Elizabeth has been the glue that pulled all of these together and made Belle Grove something personal to each of these organizations," said Adamson, of Strasburg.

MANOR HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

That energy was also focused on Belle Grove, whether it was creating or putting together an event or working to improve the house itself, said Nancy Lee Comer, lead volunteer. McClung approached the projects with a passion and organization that simply makes people "feel at ease as soon as they meet her."

The 1797 Manor House's interior was restored to its historically accurate appearance and the structure and its outbuildings were repaired using historic preservation practices, she said.

"All the things she has done to bring that about on the decorative part of the house—the carpet, the painting, the furniture—all of that has contributed greatly to the house and interpreting it," said Comer, of Stephens City.

Those kind of changes take money, so McClung constantly was looking for new fundraising ideas, ways to improve upon existing ones, or grant writing opportunities, said Sandy Dunkle, chair-elect of the board. She is a "forward thinking person" who is cheerful and knows how to handle herself regardless of the situation, she said.

Dunkle praised the Hite of Excellence Dinner Series—now in its 16th year—that McClung created as a fundraiser.

"It has been one of our biggest sources of income and that is all because Elizabeth McClung brought that to us. Still today, it is a strong part of our financial picture," said Dunkle, of Frederick County.

MAKING CHANGES

McClung had a tough road ahead of her when she took over Belle Grove in 1997, said Fred Andreae, who has been chairman of the board twice and served on the search committee when she was hired as well as the current one that will seek her successor.

Before she came, Belle Grove was run in a "more casual way, a little less businesslike way," Andreae said. When McClung was hired, she put a more professional atmosphere in place and didn't balk when it became apparent that the manor house's finances were not as good as originally believed, he said.

The first three years were the most challenging for her because they were all about bringing the house into the 21st century

"while still keeping the important historic structures true to their period," McClung said.

"There were no computers. There were no financial systems in place. We were the mule train on the information highway," she said. "We had no Internet or hadn't dreamed of getting email because we didn't have any computers."

In more recent years, she faced the same problem as other nonprofit groups in struggling to fund operating costs, she said.

There were cuts in funding from the state and federal levels and private foundations, who were no longer providing unrestricted funds, she said. They began focusing instead on fundraising for special projects.

"When you have a house that was built in 1797 and a lot of property with cattle, fences and other structures, there is always something falling apart that you have to manage," she said.

Over the years, McClung has maintained a small, capable staff and an active and energetic group of volunteers that run the house's day-to-day operations and special events, Andreae said.

"When we go through tough economic times, it is a difficult operation to run," he said. "You have to be on your toes and be out raising money and keeping your staff and volunteers happy. They are the people the public sees."

Other highlights from her time at Belle Grove that McClung looks back on proudly are restoring the historic landscape around the house and gardens, beginning a junior docent program to engage young people to "maintain and preserve important touchstones," and creating the Belle Grove 1797 Whiskey and Belle Grove 1797 Whiskey Chocolates.

FUTURE PLANS

After working at Belle Grove for almost 17 years and in the nonprofit sector overall for more than 40 years, McClung, who declined to share her age, said she is eager for unstructured time.

She earned a bachelor's degree in 1969 at the Tyler School of Art of Temple University in Philadelphia.

Before coming to Belle Grove, she was the director of development for four years at the Museum of American Frontier Culture in Staunton.

McClung and her husband, Kent, will move to their home in Highland County, which they have owned for more than 30 years. The move will allow her to spend time on her artwork, which she hasn't had time to pursue in recent years.

"When you are the director of a nonprofit of any kind, it is fairly strenuous. It involves a lot of weekends, evenings and holidays," McClung said. "It will be wonderful to have time off."

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF BOB TRIMBORN UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor the distinguished career of Bob Trimborn, who retired on July 1 after seventeen years as Director of the Santa Monica Airport. Over the years, Bob

has been a critically important advocate for airport neighbors and airport users and he will be greatly missed.

Bob discovered his love of aviation early in life. He got his first real taste of flying at the Hawthorne Municipal Airport, where he flew his first plane at the age of fourteen. He later became a private pilot, a commercial pilot and in 1983 was hired as the Airport Manager in Hawthorne, where he worked for 10 years. He spent three years in Reno, Nevada serving as the Airport Manager at the Reno Stead Airport before the City of Santa Monica hired him as Airport Director for SMO in 1996.

Bob took real pride in telling the story of the rich history of the airport and delighted in sharing a photo presentation about the evolution of SMO. The airport opened in 1917, gave flight to aviation adventurers like Amelia Earhart and Bessie Coleman, and was once home to Douglass Aircraft, which produced the celebrated DC-3.

But Bob's lasting legacy will be his impassioned advocacy, which made a real difference in the lives of airport neighbors and users. He worked tirelessly with elected officials, the commissioners, and the surrounding community to promote transparency and seek solutions to the challenges facing the airport. I congratulate Bob on his many years of service to the City of Santa Monica and wish him all the best in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING LEE GOLDMAN FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS IN JOURNALISM

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Lee Goldman of Flat Rock, North Carolina, on having three of his columns featured on the Supreme Court's SCOTUSblog within the past month.

For three separate articles on controversial legal issues to gain the attention of the highest court of the land is a tremendous achievement that deserves to be commended.

Mr. Goldman has shared his writing talents with the 11th District of North Carolina for years. From 2009–2012, Mr. Goldman wrote an op-ed column on national politics for the Asheville Citizen-Times in Asheville, NC. Now, as he did in 2008, he writes his column for the Hendersonville Times-News in Hendersonville, NC.

Mr. Goldman devoted a large part of his life to serving in the federal government from 1964–2001. He worked as Staff Director of the United States Senate Subcommittee on Health and Scientific Research and also as an Associate Director at the National Institutes of Health. Mr. Goldman was a member of the Senior Executive Service, Director of Federal Liaison for the Association of American Medical Colleges and a Senior Policy Advisor for the National Alliance Against Mental Illness.

Mr. Speaker, as a Representative for the 11th District of North Carolina, I commend Mr. Goldman for his talents and thank him for his contributions to our district and nation.